

KREMLIN SAID STOKING "BLACK PROPAGANDA" CAMPAIGN AGAINST U.S.
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Newspaper readers around the world have encountered some astonishing assertions about the United States in recent years. They have read, for example, that:

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-- The killer disease AIDS was sparked by a CIA experiment on the immune system that got dangerously out of control. This story circulated in newspapers in India last year.

-- Over two-thirds of U.S. nuclear bomber crew members suffer from "psychoneurotic" symptoms, including irrational, violent behavior. (European newspapers, early 1980s).

-- The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was linked to the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. (Indian papers, 1984.)

-- U.S. intelligence agents were involved in poisoning Brazilian Indians and dumping poison into the Amazon River. (Latin American papers, early 1980s.)

-- The United States intended to deploy nuclear missiles in South Africa. (Black African newspapers, early 1980s.)

U.S. officials say these reports and others like them were not only false but were classic examples of Soviet "disinformation" or "black propaganda": lies or half-truths planted by the KGB spy service to discredit Washington in neutral countries or sow tensions with U.S. allies.

The officials, who monitor KGB activities, said many false stories were based on fake U.S. documents created by ever-more adept forgers in Service A of the KGB's First Directorate.

While the Americans make international deception seem like a Kremlin invention, it has a long history and the CIA itself has engaged in black propaganda over the years -- as some of its former directors have admitted in congressional testimony.

The authoritative Aviation Week magazine said in a March issue that U.S. officials had been feeding the press bogus information on "Stealth" radar-eluding technology and "Star Wars" space-defense weapons in hopes of

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